Dear Sarah Ellis,

My name is Kelsey and I have just recently finished reading your book A Prairie as Wide as the Sea – the Immigrant Diary of Ivy Weatherall in the Dear Canada series. Even though a lot of people might think that because this book is an immigrant diary, I think that they should never judge a book by its cover. This is a nail biter in some parts, especially in the snow storm. And it is also very sad in some parts like when the Weatherall’s only relatives in Canada have to move back to England because the mother is sick.

I think that it is interesting to think about how the people had to live back then to make a living. Instead of only working at a corner store, William and the father had to clean out grain elevators to get some extra money. If they were in modern day time, I think that they would be very surprised at firstly, how expensive things are now, and secondly, how much more you get paid doing one job. I wonder if they had lawyers back then – obviously not like the ones that we have now, but maybe the start of lawyers.

In social studies class right now, we are learning about confederation and how Canada came to be the way it is now. I quite enjoy reading this book and relating it to what we have been learning about and thinking about what Canada could have been like before Ivy and her family moved overseas. We are now getting into detail about the Charlottetown Conference.

I think that it is very effective to have a picture of Ivy on the front cover because sometimes you forget how old she is. I think Ivy is very smart and resourceful, even though she doesn’t think that of herself. I think that if she would stop trying so hard to be like the character in the Lost in the Backwoods book that she’s reading, then she would realize that she has more potential than she believes she has. An example of this is when the snow storm was going on and the coal had run out, she chopped up the kitchen chairs to keep her, her younger brother and his twin sister warm.

I think that this is a very well written book and I will recommend it to all my friends

Sincerely,

Kelsey